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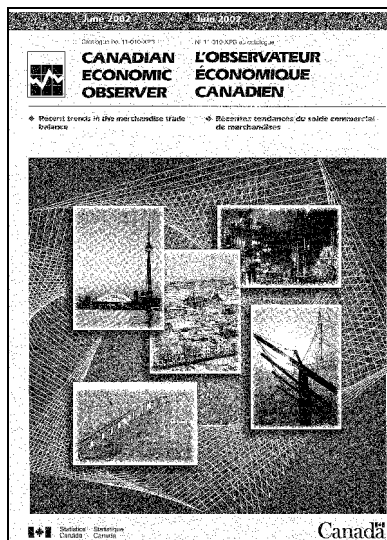
Thursday, June 20, 2002

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, April 2002** 3
 Canada's trade balance jumped 11.0% to \$5.2 billion in April, the highest level since May 2001. Merchandise exports rose 2.9% to \$34.3 billion, the highest level since June 2001.
- **Retail Trade, April 2002** 7
 Retail sales advanced 1.0% in April after a pause in the previous two months. All retail sectors, except drug stores, posted higher sales.

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Canadian economic observer

June 2002

The June issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in May and presents a feature article on recent trends in the merchandise trade balance. To learn more about the the article "Recent trends in the merchandise trade balance," see the section *Other releases*. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The June 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Vol. 15, no. 6 (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. Visit *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, and on that page see the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.



OTHER RELEASES

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NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

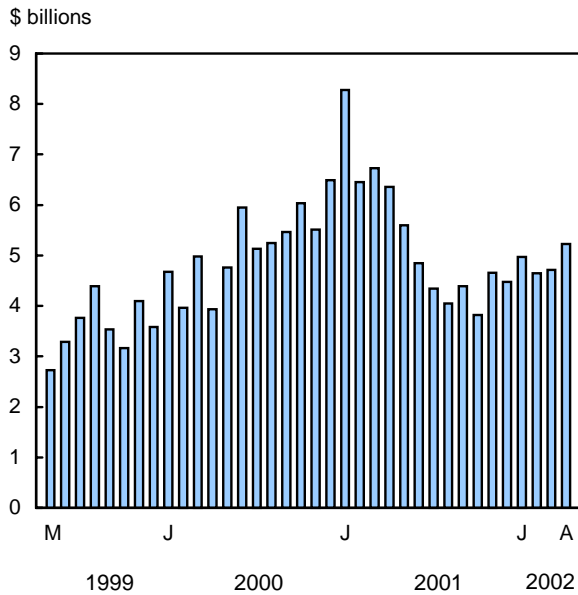
Canadian international merchandise trade

April 2002

Canada's trade balance jumped 11.0% from March to \$5.2 billion in April, the highest level since May 2001. Merchandise exports rose 2.9% to \$34.3 billion, the highest level since June 2001.

Export growth was particularly strong in automotive products, Canada's largest export sector, rising 4.1% to \$8.2 billion. Machinery and equipment increased 2.6% to \$7.8 billion. Together these two sectors account for nearly half of all merchandise exports.

Trade balance



Merchandise imports, however, rose at slightly more than half the pace of exports to \$29.1 billion, a 1.6% increase from March. As a result, Canada's overall trade surplus increased, ending a two-month slide.

The trade surplus with the United States jumped 8.2% to \$8.3 billion. Canadian companies sent \$29.2 billion in goods to the United States in April, a 2.4% increase from March, while they imported \$20.9 billion worth, up 0.3%.

The United States accounted for more than two-thirds of the increase in Canada's exports in April, while imports from the United States remained virtually unchanged. Canada's trade deficits with Japan, the

Note to readers

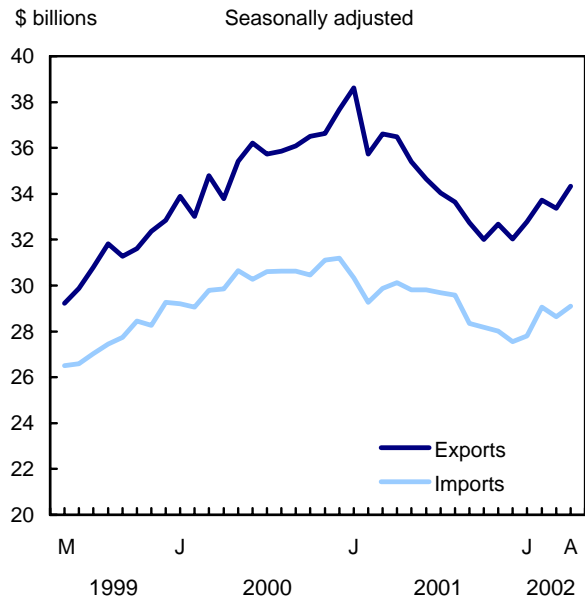
Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised continually for each month of the current year. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors. Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

European Union and other countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development worsened but were slightly offset by smaller trade deficits with all other countries. Consequently, Canada's total trade deficit with nations other than the United States rose \$109 million to \$3.1 billion in April.

Exports and imports



Automotive products, machinery and industrial exports rebound on strong export markets

After pausing in March, the automotive products sector jumped 4.1% to \$8.2 billion in April. Sales in the

United States of incentive-laden passenger automobiles drove exports up 4.5% to \$4.3 billion. Exports of motor vehicle parts to supply busy American automotive assembly plants jumped 5.5% to \$2.4 billion. Trucks and other motor vehicles exports rose a slight 0.8% to \$1.5 billion.

In the machinery and equipment sector, exports increased 2.6% to \$7.8 billion. Aircraft and other transportation equipment exports rose 11.2% to \$1.8 billion. Exports of aircraft, engines and parts rose 14.0% to \$1.4 billion, in spite of work stoppages; this rise was a result of aircraft assembled from late March to early April, but only shipped in April.

Exports of television, telecommunication and related equipment stumbled as sales to the Far East and United States dropped off at the start of the second quarter. The 12.6% decrease to \$980.3 million in April ended a five-month streak of increases going back to October.

Industrial goods and materials, the third largest export sector, rose 7.3% to \$5.8 billion. Chemicals, plastics and fertilizers increased 6.7% to just under \$2 billion and other industrial goods and materials jumped 8.1% to \$1.5 billion. Exports for both of these sub-sectors were at their highest level in 2002. Metals and alloys exports increased 6.5% to \$1.8 billion as a result of strong shipments abroad of precious metals, aluminum, iron and steel.

Warmer, more seasonable weather in North America resulted in a 3.4% drop of exports in the energy sector to \$4.1 billion, ending four straight monthly increases. Demand for natural gas, crude petroleum and electricity in the United States fell. Natural gas exports dropped 11.5% in April to \$1.7 billion. Natural gas prices slowed down in April following a sharp rise in response to higher-than-seasonal demand in March. Crude petroleum exports fell 3.2% to \$1.3 billion. Petroleum and coal product exports went against the trend, rising 23.4% to \$833.3 million, the third monthly increase in a row.

The forestry products sector remained virtually unchanged in April at \$3.2 billion. Adequate inventories of softwood lumber south of the border, confusion over the outcome of the softwood lumber dispute in the wake of changing duties and tariffs, along with a two-month decline in US housing starts, resulted in a 4.8% decline in the export of lumber to \$1.1 billion. Exports of newsprint and other paper and paperboard rose 1.7% to just over \$1 billion, ending a five month decline.

Auto parts imports feed Canadian production

Automotive product imports rose for the third consecutive month, up 1.3% to \$6.7 billion in April. Imports of motor vehicle parts, used in the production

of Canadian-built automobiles, increased 6.8% to \$3.8 billion. Imports of passenger autos fell 5.4% to \$2.1 billion, and those of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 3.8% to \$837.7 million.

Imports of machinery and equipment, Canada's largest import sector, increased 1.0% to \$8.7 billion in April. Within this sector, imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment rose 8.7% to \$1.2 billion, as carriers increased their holdings of passenger aircraft. Other communication and related equipment, which includes telecommunications equipment and semi-conductors, dropped 3.3% to \$1.4 billion. Imports of office machines and equipment fell 1.6% to \$1.4 billion.

The industrial and agricultural machinery sub-sector rose 1.9% to \$2.2 billion. Imports of engines, turbines and motors (up 17.5% to \$294.5 million) and excavating machinery (up 10.7% to \$127.2 million) provided most of the growth within this sector.

Canada's third largest import sector, industrial goods and materials, increased 2.4% to \$5.6 billion, mainly the result of increased imports of precious metals in the metals and metal ores sub-sector. Metals and metal ores increased 11.4% to \$1.3 billion; other industrial goods and materials held steady, rising 0.6% to \$2.2 billion, while chemicals and plastics dipped 0.8% to \$2.1 billion.

Energy product imports rose 16.0% in April to \$1.3 billion, mainly because of the strength of crude petroleum imports, which increased 14.9% to \$977.3 million as a result of increased prices. Higher consumption of coal for generation of electricity for utilities and manufacturing facilities in April pushed the value of all other energy products up 19.2% to \$361.9 million.

Imports in the consumer goods sector tailed-off from record highs in February, falling a slight 0.4% to \$3.7 billion in April, with declines in miscellaneous consumer goods categories. Warmer weather spurred imports of apparel and footwear (+3.9% to \$696.6 million), photographic goods (+3.9% to \$234.8 million) and house furnishings, which includes outdoor furniture (+1.8% to \$550.6 million).

Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188). The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data

(which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available by fax on the morning of release.

An annual review of 2001 will be included in the International Trade Division's annual publications *Exports, merchandise trade* (65-202-XPB, \$103) and *Imports, merchandise trade* (65-203-XPB, \$103), which will be available in June.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647). To

enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division.

Also available today is the analytical article "Recent trends in the merchandise trade balance," which is published in the June 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Vol. 15, no. 6 (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227). Visit *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, and on that page see the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*. □

Merchandise trade

| | March 2002 ^r | April 2002 | March to April 2002 | April 2001 to April 2002 | January to April 2001 | January to April 2002 | January–April 2001 to January–April 2002 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Seasonally adjusted, \$ current | | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | % change | | \$ millions | | % change |
| Principal trading partners | | | | | | | |
| Exports | | | | | | | |
| United States | 28,472 | 29,168 | 2.4 | -5.5 | 125,001 | 113,736 | -9.0 |
| Japan | 747 | 765 | 2.4 | -5.4 | 3,494 | 2,929 | -16.2 |
| European Union | 1,596 | 1,786 | 11.9 | -10.9 | 8,070 | 7,392 | -8.4 |
| Other OECD countries ¹ | 932 | 937 | 0.5 | 2.6 | 3,760 | 3,622 | -3.7 |
| All other countries | 1,615 | 1,679 | 4.0 | -11.0 | 7,120 | 6,507 | -8.6 |
| Total | 33,362 | 34,335 | 2.9 | -5.9 | 147,445 | 134,188 | -9.0 |
| Imports | | | | | | | |
| United States | 20,819 | 20,888 | 0.3 | -5.2 | 87,142 | 82,974 | -4.8 |
| Japan | 987 | 1,030 | 4.4 | 9.0 | 3,550 | 3,758 | 5.9 |
| European Union | 2,630 | 2,900 | 10.3 | -3.3 | 12,029 | 11,012 | -8.5 |
| Other OECD countries ¹ | 1,589 | 1,649 | 3.8 | 17.3 | 6,197 | 6,306 | 1.8 |
| All other countries | 2,625 | 2,638 | 0.5 | -3.7 | 10,705 | 10,577 | -1.2 |
| Total | 28,649 | 29,106 | 1.6 | -3.4 | 119,624 | 114,630 | -4.2 |
| Balance | | | | | | | |
| United States | 7,653 | 8,280 | ... | ... | 37,859 | 30,762 | ... |
| Japan | -240 | -265 | ... | ... | -56 | -829 | ... |
| European Union | -1,034 | -1,114 | ... | ... | -3,959 | -3,620 | ... |
| Other OECD countries ¹ | -657 | -712 | ... | ... | -2,437 | -2,684 | ... |
| All other countries | -1,010 | -959 | ... | ... | -3,585 | -4,070 | ... |
| Total | 4,712 | 5,230 | ... | ... | 27,821 | 19,558 | ... |
| Principal commodity groupings | | | | | | | |
| Exports | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural and fishing products | 2,479 | 2,664 | 7.5 | 2.5 | 10,007 | 10,390 | 3.8 |
| Energy products | 4,191 | 4,050 | -3.4 | -28.4 | 25,069 | 14,428 | -42.4 |
| Forestry products | 3,178 | 3,180 | 0.1 | -7.0 | 13,556 | 12,595 | -7.1 |
| Industrial goods and materials | 5,378 | 5,770 | 7.3 | 0.6 | 22,545 | 22,637 | 0.4 |
| Machinery and equipment | 7,607 | 7,808 | 2.6 | -8.1 | 35,393 | 31,802 | -10.1 |
| Automotive products | 7,890 | 8,214 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 30,517 | 31,736 | 4.0 |
| Other consumer goods | 1,427 | 1,433 | 0.4 | 5.4 | 5,389 | 5,784 | 7.3 |
| Special transactions trade ² | 627 | 697 | 11.2 | 0.6 | 2,811 | 2,687 | -4.4 |
| Other Balance of Payments adjustments | 585 | 520 | -11.1 | -7.1 | 2,159 | 2,131 | -1.3 |
| Imports | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural and fishing products | 1,791 | 1,776 | -0.8 | 4.0 | 6,630 | 7,157 | 7.9 |
| Energy products | 1,154 | 1,339 | 16.0 | -17.0 | 6,720 | 4,760 | -29.2 |
| Forestry products | 241 | 268 | 11.2 | 10.7 | 985 | 1,010 | 2.5 |
| Industrial goods and materials | 5,484 | 5,616 | 2.4 | -4.7 | 23,666 | 22,540 | -4.8 |
| Machinery and equipment | 8,611 | 8,693 | 1.0 | -11.2 | 39,829 | 34,370 | -13.7 |
| Automotive products | 6,578 | 6,665 | 1.3 | 9.0 | 23,230 | 25,740 | 10.8 |
| Other consumer goods | 3,731 | 3,716 | -0.4 | 3.5 | 14,105 | 14,858 | 5.3 |
| Special transactions trade ² | 500 | 518 | 3.6 | -19.1 | 2,326 | 2,057 | -11.6 |
| Other Balance of Payments adjustments | 561 | 515 | -8.2 | -3.7 | 2,134 | 2,139 | 0.2 |

^r Revised figures

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

² These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Retail Trade

April 2002

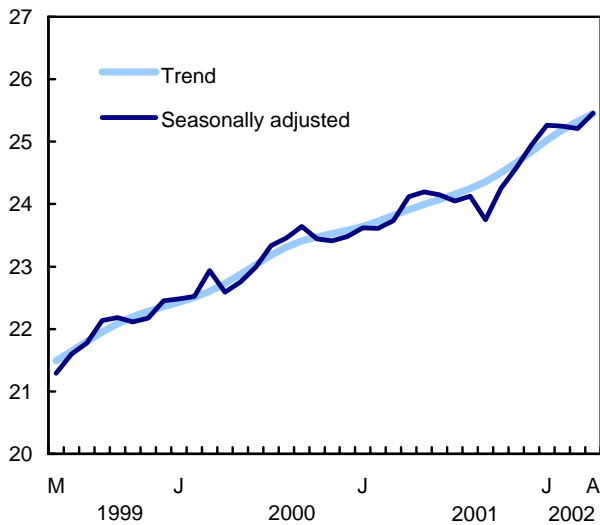
Retail sales advanced 1.0% in April to \$25.5 billion after remaining essentially flat in March (-0.2%) and unchanged in February. Previously, retailers enjoyed a four-month period of heavy spending from consumers. In January and in the last three months of 2001, retail sales grew at least 1.3% each month. This followed a 1.6% decline in September, partly related to the events of September 11.

In constant dollars, retail sales rose 0.3% in April from March. Gasoline (+6.8%) and cigarettes (+4.0%) posted the most significant price increases in April.

All retail sectors posted higher sales in April except drug stores (-0.7%). Retailers in the clothing (+3.9%), furniture (+1.5%) and general merchandise (+1.2%) sectors enjoyed the largest sales increases.

Retail sales advanced in April after a pause in the previous two months

\$ billions



Consumers back in clothing stores

Consumers spent 3.9% more in clothing stores in April, after staying away in the first three months of 2002. The clothing sector posted the weakest sales gain of all sectors in the first quarter of 2002 (+0.2%). April's gain in the clothing sector was the largest in a year. Sales advances in April were significant in all store types, with women's clothing stores (+5.3%) leading the way. Unseasonable weather from January to April may have caused some volatility in clothing store sales. Sales in the clothing sector have generally been rising since the

Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. Retail sales estimates for May will be released on July 22.

fall of 2001, offsetting the declines observed in the spring and summer of that year.

Sales growth returns in furniture and general merchandise stores

After reporting weak sales in January and February, retailers in the furniture sector enjoyed strong gains in March (+1.1%) and April (+1.5%). The short-lived pause at the start of 2002 followed an exceptionally strong year in 2001. Furniture store sales advanced 8.0% in 2001, leading all other retail sectors in growth. Credit incentives and a red-hot housing market continued to stimulate sales in furniture stores.

Higher department store sales in April (+2.0%) pushed sales up 1.2% for the general merchandise sector. All of the recent growth seen in this sector originated from department stores. New store openings are largely responsible for the 8.6% year-over-year increase in department store sales in April. Sales in other general merchandise stores, however, remained 0.5% lower in April than in April 2001. Sales in the overall general merchandise sector advanced rapidly since September 2001, after a period of moderate growth that started in the spring of 2000.

Sales in the automotive sector rose 0.9% in April, offsetting the declines in February and March. A strong comeback by retailers of automotive parts and services (+5.3%) and a fourth consecutive monthly increase in sales by gasoline service stations (+3.8%) led to the higher sales in the automotive sector in April.

Motor and recreational vehicle dealers posted lower sales in April (-0.7%) for a third consecutive month, despite a 1.7% increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold. The motor and recreational vehicle dealers category includes not only new car dealers, but also dealers of used cars, motor homes, boats and motorcycles. New car dealers rely on sales of new cars for about 60% of their revenues; the rest comes from sales of used cars, parts and labour. Despite three consecutive months of declines, sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers from January to April were 12.6% above those in the same period of 2001.

Drug stores take a breather

After leading other retailers in the first quarter of 2002, drug stores posted a 0.7% sales decline in April. Drug stores had their largest quarterly gain

in nine years in the first quarter of 2002, with sales up 3.9% from the fourth quarter of 2001. Sales in drug stores have been rising rapidly since the spring of 2000, reflecting increased consumption and higher prices for pharmaceuticals.

All but two provinces post higher retail sales

Retail sales rose in all provinces in April, except New Brunswick (-3.8%) and Nova Scotia (-1.6%). However, sales declines reported by retailers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in April follow gains in March, which were among the largest of all provinces.

April's sales increases in retail stores were about the same in Ontario (+1.0%), British Columbia (+0.9%) and Quebec (+0.7%). Retail sales in Ontario advanced rapidly since September 2001 (+7.4%) after remaining essentially flat since the fall of 2000. In Quebec, retailers also enjoyed rising sales since September 2001 (+8.1%) after a period of declines in the spring and summer of that year. In British Columbia, consumers increased their spending in retail stores to a lesser degree since September 2001 (+5.2%), following a short period of declines in the summer of 2001.

Related indicators for May

Total employment advanced 0.2% in May from April, up a fifth consecutive month. In all, 237,000 jobs were

created since the start of 2002 representing the largest cumulative five-month increase since 1994. The number of new motor vehicles sold in May rose at a rate similar to April's 1.7% gain, according to preliminary results from the automotive industry. Housing starts jumped 10.1% in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 203,200 new homes. This represented one of the highest levels of activity in new home construction since 1990. Gasoline prices at the pump fell 1.8% in May, after rising in each of the previous four months.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0001 to 080-0005.

The April 2002 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; paul.gratton@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. □

Retail sales

| | April 2001 | January 2002 ^r | February 2002 ^r | March 2002 ^r | April 2002 ^p | March to April 2002 | April 2001 to April 2002 |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Seasonally adjusted | | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | | | % change | |
| Food | 5,248 | 5,409 | 5,451 | 5,449 | 5,477 | 0.5 | 4.4 |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 4,851 | 4,993 | 5,032 | 5,049 | 5,076 | 0.5 | 4.6 |
| All other food stores | 397 | 415 | 418 | 400 | 400 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| Drug and patent medicine stores | 1,185 | 1,280 | 1,283 | 1,290 | 1,281 | -0.7 | 8.2 |
| Clothing | 1,366 | 1,353 | 1,365 | 1,344 | 1,397 | 3.9 | 2.2 |
| Shoe stores | 148 | 153 | 152 | 145 | 152 | 4.9 | 2.9 |
| Men's clothing stores | 121 | 121 | 118 | 118 | 123 | 4.8 | 2.0 |
| Women's clothing stores | 418 | 394 | 404 | 401 | 422 | 5.3 | 0.9 |
| Other clothing stores | 679 | 686 | 692 | 680 | 699 | 2.8 | 2.9 |
| Furniture | 1,319 | 1,490 | 1,469 | 1,485 | 1,507 | 1.5 | 14.3 |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 1,070 | 1,196 | 1,185 | 1,198 | 1,213 | 1.2 | 13.4 |
| Household furnishings stores | 250 | 295 | 284 | 288 | 295 | 2.4 | 18.0 |
| Automotive | 9,756 | 10,248 | 10,187 | 10,155 | 10,249 | 0.9 | 5.0 |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 6,417 | 7,089 | 7,006 | 6,926 | 6,876 | -0.7 | 7.2 |
| Gasoline service stations | 1,963 | 1,735 | 1,747 | 1,843 | 1,912 | 3.8 | -2.6 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,376 | 1,424 | 1,434 | 1,387 | 1,460 | 5.3 | 6.1 |
| General merchandise stores | 2,692 | 2,795 | 2,795 | 2,787 | 2,820 | 1.2 | 4.8 |
| Retail stores not elsewhere classified | 2,555 | 2,687 | 2,702 | 2,702 | 2,722 | 0.8 | 6.5 |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 734 | 772 | 777 | 779 | 768 | -1.4 | 4.6 |
| Other durable goods stores | 647 | 652 | 655 | 665 | 681 | 2.4 | 5.2 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 1,173 | 1,263 | 1,270 | 1,258 | 1,274 | 1.2 | 8.5 |
| Total, retail sales | 24,122 | 25,262 | 25,251 | 25,213 | 25,453 | 1.0 | 5.5 |
| Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 17,705 | 18,173 | 18,245 | 18,287 | 18,576 | 1.6 | 4.9 |
| Provinces and territories | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 400 | 424 | 430 | 417 | 431 | 3.3 | 7.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | 106 | 111 | 110 | 112 | 113 | 1.1 | 7.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 719 | 764 | 762 | 771 | 759 | -1.6 | 5.6 |
| New Brunswick | 607 | 613 | 605 | 623 | 600 | -3.8 | -1.1 |
| Quebec | 5,654 | 5,655 | 5,775 | 5,787 | 5,825 | 0.7 | 3.0 |
| Ontario | 9,089 | 9,643 | 9,468 | 9,487 | 9,585 | 1.0 | 5.5 |
| Manitoba | 819 | 871 | 881 | 866 | 905 | 4.5 | 10.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 693 | 735 | 728 | 735 | 737 | 0.2 | 6.4 |
| Alberta | 2,848 | 3,080 | 3,082 | 3,029 | 3,085 | 1.8 | 8.3 |
| British Columbia | 3,107 | 3,273 | 3,316 | 3,294 | 3,325 | 0.9 | 7.0 |
| Yukon | 29 | 37 | 33 | 32 | 29 | -9.4 | 1.8 |
| Northwest Territories | 35 | 41 | 44 | 41 | 43 | 6.9 | 22.8 |
| Nunavut | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 16 | -2.7 | 4.3 |

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Retail sales

| | April 2001 | March 2002 ^r | April 2002 ^p | April 2001 to April 2002 |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Unadjusted | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | % change |
| Food | 4,963 | 5,520 | 5,160 | 4.0 |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 4,570 | 5,119 | 4,791 | 4.8 |
| All other food stores | 394 | 400 | 370 | -6.0 |
| Drug and patent medicine stores | 1,143 | 1,253 | 1,238 | 8.4 |
| Clothing | 1,255 | 1,131 | 1,308 | 4.2 |
| Shoe stores | 147 | 112 | 156 | 6.0 |
| Men's clothing stores | 105 | 89 | 110 | 4.9 |
| Women's clothing stores | 398 | 343 | 415 | 4.5 |
| Other clothing stores | 605 | 587 | 626 | 3.5 |
| Furniture | 1,155 | 1,342 | 1,353 | 17.1 |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 931 | 1,084 | 1,078 | 15.8 |
| Household furnishings stores | 224 | 258 | 274 | 22.5 |
| Automotive | 10,308 | 9,679 | 11,407 | 10.7 |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 7,081 | 6,734 | 8,061 | 13.8 |
| Gasoline service stations | 1,890 | 1,774 | 1,859 | -1.6 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,337 | 1,172 | 1,488 | 11.3 |
| General merchandise stores | 2,448 | 2,441 | 2,548 | 4.1 |
| Retail stores not elsewhere classified | 2,257 | 2,290 | 2,396 | 6.2 |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 633 | 604 | 663 | 4.6 |
| Other durable goods stores | 579 | 542 | 616 | 6.4 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 1,044 | 1,144 | 1,117 | 7.0 |
| Total, retail sales | 23,529 | 23,657 | 25,410 | 8.0 |
| Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 16,448 | 16,923 | 17,349 | 5.5 |
| Provinces and territories | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 374 | 390 | 419 | 12.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 95 | 96 | 104 | 9.8 |
| Nova Scotia | 687 | 719 | 729 | 6.2 |
| New Brunswick | 589 | 568 | 599 | 1.6 |
| Quebec | 5,735 | 5,486 | 6,060 | 5.7 |
| Ontario | 8,755 | 8,776 | 9,473 | 8.2 |
| Manitoba | 795 | 831 | 894 | 12.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 668 | 678 | 728 | 9.1 |
| Alberta | 2,759 | 2,871 | 3,042 | 10.2 |
| British Columbia | 2,993 | 3,154 | 3,275 | 9.4 |
| Yukon | 27 | 29 | 28 | 2.5 |
| Northwest Territories | 35 | 43 | 43 | 23.8 |
| Nunavut | 16 | 17 | 17 | 4.4 |

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Trends in the merchandise trade balance 2001

Canada's merchandise trade surplus soared to a record \$64 billion in 2001 and, for the first time, forestry products failed to make the biggest contribution, according to a new study.

An article available today in *Canadian economic observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, analyses trends in the merchandise trade balance — the difference between exports and imports — and its components during the past decade.

The trade surplus in 2001 was nearly six times greater than at the start of the 1990s, and represented the largest share of gross domestic product since 1961.

From 1990 to 2001, 60% of the increase originated in energy products, which had the largest surplus of any sector last year (\$37.0 billion). In fact, energy replaced forestry products as the largest contributor for the first time.

This was the result of a substantial expansion of the nation's capacity to export natural gas in recent years, reinforced by price increases following the energy crisis in the western United States early in 2001.

Prices for natural gas and electricity skyrocketed when shortages triggered rolling black-outs in California. At the same time, forestry exports were dampened by weak prices and trade restrictions.

The automobile sector represented the third biggest source of Canada's trade surplus in 2001, despite a slowdown in the American market and increased imports from overseas.

Canada's surplus in automotive products hit \$20.3 billion in 2001, almost five times larger than in 1990, but down slightly from the record \$21.4 billion in 1999.

Canada's capacity to make automobiles expanded considerably from 1995 to 1999, as the industry invested more than \$10 billion in plant and equipment. This was reflected in exports, although they fell last year as American demand decelerated.

While Canada continues to be a net exporter of agricultural products, it is now largely the result of meat and fish. The traditional surplus in grains has been dampened by a softening market and was surpassed by growing demand for imported fruits and vegetables.

The only notable swing in the trade balance during the past decade occurred in industrial goods, which switched from a surplus to deficit because of soft markets for Canada's metals and rising steel imports.

Industrial materials swung from a surplus of \$5.8 billion in 1996 to a record deficit of \$3.2 billion

in 2000, before the gap narrowed slightly to \$1.7 billion in 2001. This downward trend originated largely in higher imports of steel and fabricated metals from the United States, Asia and Eastern Europe.

The deficit in machinery and equipment has shrunk in recent years, largely because of huge gains in exports of aerospace equipment. The boom in telecommunications exports in 2000 had only a transitory impact.

Machinery and equipment, which long had the largest trade shortfall of any sector, was overtaken by consumer goods in five of the last six years, partly reflecting a pick-up in consumer demand in Canada.

The article "Recent trends in the merchandise trade balance" is now available in the June 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Vol. 15, no. 6 (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227). See *How to order products*. The PDF version of this article can only be accessed from the electronic version of *The Daily*.

Visit the *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, and on that page see the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*.

For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group. ■

Energy supply and demand

First quarter 2001

Canada consumed 1.3% less energy in the first quarter of 2001 compared with the revised first quarter of 2000. Increases in the final demand for heavy fuel oil, light fuel oil and coal were primarily offset by a drop in natural gas consumption. The US appetite for Canadian primary energy continued to increase, accounting for 54% of total production, compared with 52% in 2000.

On the production side, output of crude oil rose 3.0% in the first quarter of 2001 from the revised first quarter of 2000, the result of sustained strong demand from US refineries. A 4.3% increase in natural gas production and a 6.7% gain in total petroleum products resulted primarily from higher exports in the same period of 2000. A 4.5% decline in coal production was in response to lower demand from Pacific Rim countries.

Energy use by the mining sector rose 1.2% from the first quarter of 2000, but demand from the manufacturing sector recorded a broad-based decrease of 10.7% during the same period. The residential and commercial sectors posted gains of 1.0% and 6.7%, respectively.

Total exports of primary energy products rose 6.1% in the first quarter of 2001 from the first quarter of 2000. This was primarily the result of higher exports of natural gas and crude oil.

Total energy demand in Canada for 2000 has been revised upward slightly to 7,380 petajoules from 7,376 petajoules. One petajoule roughly equals the amount of energy required to operate the Montréal subway system for one year. Energy demand represents usage in plants, transportation of goods, operation of motor vehicles, heating of homes, office buildings and schools, and so on.

Energy Supply and Demand

| | First quarter 2000 ^r | First quarter 2001 | First quarter 2000 to first quarter 2001 % change |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | Petajoules ¹ | | |
| Production² | 4 024 | 4 106 | 2.0 |
| Exports ² | 2 098 | 2 226 | 6.1 |
| Imports ² | 618 | 723 | 17.0 |
| Availability ² | 2 958 | 2 997 | 1.3 |
| Electricity generation | 365 | 364 | -0.3 |
| Producer consumption | 241 | 253 | 5.0 |
| Non-energy use | 84 | 75 | -10.7 |
| Final demand³ | 2 137 | 2 109 | -1.3 |
| Industrial | 635 | 580 | -8.7 |
| Transportation | 538 | 536 | -0.4 |
| Residential and agriculture | 556 | 561 | 0.9 |
| Commercial and government | 408 | 432 | 5.9 |

^r Revised data.

¹ A 30-litre gasoline fill-up contains about one gigajoule of energy. A petajoule is one million gigajoules.

² Primary energy sources are coal, crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, and hydro and nuclear electricity.

³ Final demand represents the sum of energy use by mining, manufacturing, forestry, construction, transportation, agriculture, residential, public administration and commercial and other institutional sectors.

Note: In addition to the current quarter estimates, data for the previous quarters of the reference year are regularly revised. In this issue, revisions have also been made for the reference year 2000. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of company data and revisions to previously estimated or reported data. Consult the appropriate CANSIM tables for revised data. Final demand is the sum of energy use by mining, manufacturing, forestry, construction, transportation, agriculture, residential, public administration and commercial and other institutional sectors.

Available on CANSIM: tables 128-0001 to 128-0003.

The first quarter 2001 issue of *Quarterly report on energy supply/demand in Canada* (57-003-XPB, \$43/\$141), will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John Svab (613-951-7382; john.svab@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

April 2002

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from April 1997 to April 2002 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from April 1997 to April 2002. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also now available on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

The April 2002 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending June 15, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending June 15 totalled 317 199 metric tonnes, down 4.3%

from 331 612 tonnes a week earlier but up 1.7% from 311 855 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total on June 15 was 7 529 317 tonnes, up 10.8% from 6 797 395 in the same period of 2001.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Dragos Ifrim (613-951-3527; dragos.ifrim@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

June 1, 2002 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on June 1 totalled 68 658 metric tonnes, up 5.5% from June 1, 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860; conrad.ogrodnik@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Agriculture value added account

2001 and 2000 (revised)

The value of agricultural production reached a record high of \$45.5 billion in 2001, up 5.8% from 2000. The value of agricultural production (in current dollars) has been increasing each year since 1991, except for a small drop in 1997. The average annual increase from 1992 to 2001 was 6.1%, compared with 2.2% for the period 1981 to 1991. Data series on agriculture value added account are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0004.

The May 2002 update of *Agriculture economic statistics* (21-603-UPE, \$26/\$52) will be available in July. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sophie Bernard (613-951-9306; sophie.bernard@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Balance sheet of the agricultural sector at December 31

2001 and 2000 (revised)

Farm sector equity in Canada grew 0.6% in 2001 to a record \$164.7 billion. Equity rises when asset

values increase more rapidly than farm debt. From December 31, 2000 to December 31, 2001, total farm assets rose \$2.9 billion to \$201.0 billion, and total liabilities increased \$1.9 billion to \$36.3 billion. After declining every year from 1981 to 1986, the agriculture sector equity (in current dollars) has grown annually, except in 1991. Data series on the balance sheet for the agricultural sector at December 31 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0020.

The May 2002 update of *Agriculture economic statistics* (21-603-UPE, \$26/\$52) will be available in July. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sophie Bernard (613-951-9306; sophie.bernard@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Farm business cash flows

2001 and 2000 (revised)

Farm business operators had more cash available for investment or withdrawal in 2001. Cash flows increased 15.6% from 2000 to \$12.3 billion, well above the previous five-year average of \$10.1 billion. Data series on farm business cash flows are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0023.

The May 2002 update of *Agriculture economic statistics* (21-603-UPE, \$26/\$52) will be available in July. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sophie Bernard (613-951-9306; sophie.bernard@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Family file and perinatal data for Nova Scotia

1988 to 1995

A new file (T1) including perinatal information and individual and family income information is now available for the years 1988 to 1995. This file will be held until January 2003.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administration Data Division. ■

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Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian rode an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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